

Application Serial No. 10/524,695  
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2007

PATENT  
Docket: CU-4085

**Amendments to the Abstract**

A means of coupling for connecting pipes, comprising having a seal ~~[[ (2) ]]~~, flanges ~~(3, 3')~~, a threaded portion ~~[[ (15) ]]~~ and a nut ~~[[ (5) ]]~~, where the end portion ~~(4, 4')~~ of the pipe is equipped with a concentric press surface ~~[[ (23) ]]~~ located immediately proximal to the periphery of the pipe ~~(4, 4')~~ and designed to be able to take an axial pressure from a preloading tool ~~[[ (25) ]]~~, which pressure is distributed evenly or point-by-point about the periphery of the pipe. ~~A means of compressing pipe couplings, where a~~ The preloading tool ~~(25) comprises~~ has two end sections ~~(27, 31)~~ connected to two or more rods ~~[[ (35) ]]~~, each rod ~~[[ (35) ]]~~ being equipped with a hydraulic cylinder ~~[[ (37) ]]~~.